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SAC, New York

April 11, 1951

Director, FBI

Alice Childress
SECURITY MATTER - C

On page five of the "Daily Worker" dated April 3, 1951, it is reflected that Alice Childress will teach evening classes at the Jefferson School of Social Science during the spring term beginning the week of April 3, 1951. It is stated that Miss Childress, now starring in "The Candy Story," will teach the "Dramatic Workshop." *W* *11th March*

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It is noted that in the report of SA [redacted] 3/21/51, in the case entitled "Masses and Mainstream, Internal Security - C, Urfile 100-89571," it is reflected that Alice Childress contributed an article to the February 1951, issue of "Masses and Mainstream." It is further reflected that G-2 advised that Alice Childress is an actress and an authoress who on February 24, 1950, was a leader in the "Forum" at the Jefferson School of Social Science and who on March 19, 1950, attended a meeting of the Harlem Regional Committee of the Communist Party. (100-354834)

You are requested to conduct an investigation to ascertain the background and activities of this subject and determine if her name should be placed in the Security Index.

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FCZ:rdm *rdm*

DATE: 4/10/51 BY SP-5 RJB/EP

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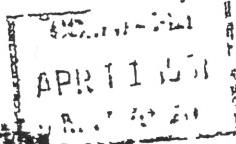
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Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clare _____
Olavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
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on April 6, 1957, at Bowman's Bar and Grill, 92 St. Nicholas Place. The informant characterized the composition of this party as being made up of the "Aristocrat of the Fosterites." In this connection the informant commented that the majority of the individuals attending the party were those who supported the view of WILLIAM Z. FOSTER in the present CP factional dispute.

[redacted] a self-admitted former member of the CP, advised in June, 1950, that PAUL ROBESON was known to him, prior to 1945, as a concealed Communist.

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III. MISCELLANEOUS

Bureau of Special Services (BSS)
New York City Police Department

The records of BSS were reviewed in July, 1957, at the request of SA [redacted]. These records did not reveal any additional current information identifiable with ALICE CHILDRESS.

Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI)
New York City Police Department

The records of the BCI were reviewed in July, 1957, at the request of SA [redacted] and these records did not reveal a criminal record for ALICE CHILDRESS.

Confidential Informants

Several additional informants, who are familiar

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The Dramatic Workshop has been cited as a Communist Front by the California Committee on Un-American Activities, report 1948, page 392.

2. The Frederick Douglass School

"The Worker", issue of January 6, 1952, section 1, page 8, column 2, reported that the Frederick Douglass School proposes "that the new school be launched as a Marxist educational and cultural center, based on the needs of the Negro, West Indians, and Puerto Rican workers of the Harlem Community. Its main aim would be the education of workers on the "Why - Is - It" and that "What - To - Do about JIM CROW living."

"The Worker", issue of March 23, 1952, section 2, page 5, column 3, reported that ROSALIE BERRY, "until recently the registrar and instructor of the Jefferson School of Social Science," is the new director of the Frederick Douglass School.

"The Worker", dated April 20, 1952, page 8, column 3, section 1, describes a monthly forum offered by the Frederick Douglass School, at its auditorium, 124 West 124 Street, to be held on April 20, 1952. The subject of this forum was to be "The Wit and Humor of the Negro People." ALICE CHILDRESS was described in the article as the sponsor of the program.

3. The American Peace Crusade

The American Peace Crusade was cited as an organization which the Communists established as a new instrument for the peace offensive in the United States, and which was heralded by the "Daily Worker", with the usual bold headlines reserved for projects in line with the Communist objective. The Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, in a statement issued on the March of Treason, February 19, 1951 and House Report number 378 on the Communist Peace Offensive, April 25, 1951, the original date April 1, 1951, page 51.

"The "Daily Worker" of May 13, 1951, section 2, page 7, columns 3 and 5, stated that the American Peace Crusade announced a National competition in poster, grammar, geography in preparation of a Peace Congress to be held in Chicago, from June 29, to July 1, 1951. ALICE CHILDRESS was a sponsor of this program.

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4. Civil Rights Congress

The Civil Rights Congress has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The "Daily Worker", of May 25, 1951, page 11, column two to four, in an article captioned "Harlem Civil Rights Congress Hails Negro and White Cultural Workers Who Aided McGEE", stated that RUSSELL MEEK, Civil Rights Executive Secretary, described ALICE CHILDRESS as a "consummate artist whose struggle lies in her roots among the Negro people."

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Confidential Informant [] and [] both of known reliability made available information pertaining to a reservation list for a dinner given in honor of WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, which was held on March 15, 1951 under the auspices of the "Defense Committee for WILLIAM L. PATTERSON." ALICE CHILDRESS' name appeared under the heading, "Messages" on this reservation list.

Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, stated on August 24, 1951, that ALICE CHILDRESS read messages of support at the sixtieth birthday party given in honor of WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, on August 23, 1951 at the Hotel Riverside, 253 West 73 Street, New York City. [] stated that those present appeared to be Communists because he said that each time the Communist Party or one of its leaders was mentioned, there was a loud applause. This informant said that special applause was accorded PATTERSON, National Executive Secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, and PAUL ROBESON.

According to the "Daily Worker", January 1, 1951, page 1, column 1, ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN is a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, United States of America.

The "Daily Worker", of December 5, 1951, page 7, column 3, in an article captioned "Art Exhibit and Sale to Aid the Civil Rights Congress," reported that ALICE CHILDRESS was co-sponsor of the sale to be held on December 8 and 9, 1951.

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The "Daily Worker" of May 19, 1952, page 8, column 2, carried an article reflecting that on May 20, 1952, the Civil Rights Congress night would be held at ALICE CHILDRESS'S review, "Gold Through the Trees", at the Club Baron, Lenox Avenue and 132 Street.

5. Teachers Union

The Rapp-Coudert Committee, New York State Legislature, investigating subversive activities in New York State, declared the Teachers Union to be a Communist dominated organization which has consistently followed the Communist Party line.

The "Daily Worker" of March 14, 1951, page 8, column 5, stated that ERIKA MANN, daughter of THOMAS MANN, was to address a luncheon session of the Fifteenth Annual Education Conference of the Teachers Union to be held at the Hotel Commodore on April 7, 1951. ALICE CHILDRESS was also scheduled as a speaker on this program.

The "Daily Worker" of April 9, 1951, page 2, column 4 and 5, in describing the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the Teachers Union, Hotel Commodore, stated that ALICE CHILDRESS addressed the panel on "Bigotry and Thought Control."

6. Congress of American Women

The Congress of American Women has been cited as being subversive and Communistic by Attorney General TOM CLARK'S letters to the Loyalty Review Board, released on June 1, 1948 and September 21, 1948.

The "Daily Worker" of August 6, 1950, stated that ALICE CHILDRESS wrote a one act play entitled, "Florence." On June 6, 1950 Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, made available information reflecting that the Congress of American Women, 2 East 23 Street, New York City, was in a position at that time to offer several educational features. Among them, [] stated, was a dramatic skit entitled, "Florence", which was written by ALICE CHILDRESS. (u) C AW

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The "Daily Worker" of June 29, 1950, page 11, column 3 and 4, stated that BARNARD RUBIN, commenting on ALICE CHILDRESS'S play, "Florence", stated that ALICE CHILDRESS, "in a quite unobtrusive way, puts across some of the most powerful blows against white Chauvinism the theater has yet produced". DW

On December 14, 1950, Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, advised that [] was known to him to be a Communist Party member. (u) DW

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7. Sojourners For Truth and Justice

"The Worker" issue of November 25, 1951, section 2, page 8, column 1, contained an article by CLAUDIA JONES entitled, "Negro Women Launch New Movement For Peace and Freedom". In this article, Miss JONES charged that the recently organized new movement of Negro Women, the Sojourners For Truth and Justice is "one of the most heartening developments of the Negro liberation movement," and is of particular interest to all progressives and especially to women. She reported that the new organization was formed in September, 1951, as a movement for Negro women who desire to speak their minds against lynch terror and national oppression of the Negro people.

The "Daily Worker" of January 1, 1951, page 1, column 1, stated that CLAUDIA JONES is Secretary of the "National Womens Commission of the Communist Party, United States of America, and is one of the alternates of the National Committee. CJ

[On September 21, 1951, Confidential Informant █ of known reliability, advised that ALICE CHILDRESS was on the initiating committee of the Sojourners For Truth and Justice.] (u)

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The "Daily Worker" issue of July 24, 1952, page 8, column 2, stated that ALICE CHILDRESS would be on the program of the Bronx chapter for the Sojourners For Truth and Justice, at a benefit concert that this organization was to hold on August 7, 1952 at the Trocadero Gardens, 555 East Tremont Avenue. Sojourners

8. New Playwrights

[On March 10, 1951, Confidential Informant █ of known reliability, stated that New Playwrights, Incorporated was an organization that had been operating about a year and sponsored "Leftist" productions. He stated that they called themselves "an organization of American Playwrights and actors, dedicated to the production of new, original, and progressive plays." █ said that performances of the plays are booked by the "Leftist" Labor, Social, and Cultural organizations and used for Communist propaganda.] (u)

The "Daily Worker" issue of November 9, 1950, page 8, column 5, reported that New Playwrights, Incorporated would

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present an evening in honor of GEORGE BERNARD SHAW on November 11, 1950, at the Czechoslovak Worker's Home, 347 East 72 Street, New York City. ALICE CHILDRESS was scheduled to be one of the speakers.

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The "New York Herald Tribune", dated October 22, 1945, stated that GEORGE BERNARD SHAW had become what amounted to part-owner of the London "Daily Worker", mouthpiece of the British Communist Party.

The "Daily Worker" on January 31, 1951, page 11, column 4, stated that New Playwrights, Incorporated announced the opening of "Candy Story", written by BARNARD RUBIN, at the Czechoslovak Worker's Home, on February 23, 1951, which would feature ALICE CHILDRESS, author of "Florence", and "Just A Little Simple." BARNARD RUBIN, this article stated, served as Feature Editor and Drama Critic for the "Daily Worker". It stated that "Candy Story" concerns the fortunes of a family who own and work in a typical New York City neighborhood candy store.

The "Daily Worker" of February 20, 1951, page 11, column 1 to 5, stated that MICHAEL GOLD, a member of New Playwrights, Incorporated described "Candy Story" as telling "the story of a strike against a big chain Drug-Cigar Store such as Local 65 heroes have often conducted." It stated that ALICE CHILDRESS was on the Board of Directors of New Playwrights, Incorporated and described her as "that wonderful new voice of Negro struggle."

Candy
Story

On August 11, 1947 the "New York Journal American" newspaper carried an article by HOWARD RUSHMORE, Staff Writer, in which he described Local 65 as "long regarded as the most thoroughly Communist dominated Union group in the city."

The "Daily Worker" of March 18, 1951, page 7, column 1 and 2, in describing "Candy Story", said, "one of the achievements of the play is the presentation of Communists, not as mechanical figures who enter from time to time and whose lives serve as explanatory footnotes to the drama, but as an intricate part of the action, following naturally into the structure of the drama." It stated that the "Candy Story" portrays the world only as a Marxist writer can do.



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Confidential Informant [redacted] of known reliability stated that "Candy Story" made a mockery of free enterprise and tried to show a completely erroneous view of America where the small businessman is eradicate by the giant monopolies.

The "Daily Worker" issue of May 15, 1951, page 4, column 5, stated that a benefit theater party was given by the United Labor Action Committee at "Candy Story". This article stated that the party was turned into a meeting of support for forty-eight locked out Ever Best Manufacturing Company workers on May 14, 1951. It also stated that ALICE CHILDRESS introduced VICKIE MAZZIE, organizer of Local 430 United Electrical Workers Union at the New Playwright Theater, 347 East 72 Street.

On October 23, 1948, LOUIS F. BUDENZ identified the director and Secretary Treasurer of the United Electrical Worker Union as Communist Party members of long standing. On this date, BUDENZ also added that practically all officials of the United Electrical Workers Union are Communist Party members or fellow travelers.

Confidential Informant [redacted] (u) of known reliability stated on March 11, 1951, that the Civil Rights Congress bought out the entire house at "Candy Story" on this date. [redacted] (u) stated that Communist Party propaganda and favorable Remarks pertaining to "Leftist" Unions, were contained in this play, and that pamphlets for "Save WILLIE McGEE," and Civil Rights Congress membership applications were distributed and a collection was taken up by a member of the Civil Rights Congress.

Confidential Informant [redacted] (u) of known reliability, advised on May 18, 1951, that a check drawn by New Playwrights, Incorporated in the amount of \$250.00 was given to the "Morning Freiheit."

The "Morning Freiheit" is described as "a Communist Yiddish Daily" by Attorney General FRANCIS BIDDLE, Congressional Record 92442, page 7686.

Confidential Informant [redacted] (u) of known reliability, advised on July 30, 1952, that New Playwrights, Incorporated

Yiddish
Daily

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received a check in the amount of \$200.00 from the National Lawyers Guild, Special Purposes Fund.

The National Lawyers Guild has been cited as a Communist Front by The Special Committee on Un-American Activities report, March 29, 1944, page 149.

The "Daily Worker" of February 10, 1951, page 11, column 1 to 5, contained an article by ALICE CHILDRESS advocating a strong Negro theater. She said that it was to be a great movement, powerful enough to create a complete desire for the liberation of all oppressed people. She said that "we shall take advantage of the rich culture of the Chinese, Japanese, Russian and all theaters." She stated that there would be no progress in art without lasting peace throughout the world.

9. May Day Parade

Confidential Informant (u) of known reliability, stated on April 30, 1951, that the annual May Day Parade is a Communist Party function. The Parade is sponsored by the United May Day Committee, also known as the United Labor and Peoples Committee for May Day.

May Day

The Special Committee on Un-American Activities report of March 29, 1944, page 179 describes the May Day Parade as follows: "The May Day Parade in New York City, is an annual mobilization of Communist strength."

The United May Day celebration is on the list of the Attorney General.

Confidential Informant (u) advised that the subject actively participated in and directed activities of the May Day Committee on May 1, 1951.

Confidential Informant (u) of known reliability, stated that ALICE CHILDRESS was a sponsor of the Provisional and Cultural Committee for May Day, 1951. (u) has described the Provisional and Cultural Committee for May Day as being a Communist Party organization and the Committee is made up entirely of Communist Party members.

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[On May 8, 1952, Confidential Informant [] of unknown reliability, who is familiar with the activities of the subject in 1952, advised that ALICE CHILDRESS was among those who marched in the May Day Parade in 1952. This informant stated that the subject was one of the members of the American Federation of Radio Actors and Television Actors union, whom he terms as a "Red" or a "Red Sympathizer." (S)(u)

10. National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions

The National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions was cited as a Communist Front, by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, Review of the Scientific and Cultural Conference for World Peace arranged by the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions and held in New York City on March 25, 26, and 27, 1949, House Report 1954, April 26, 1950, originally released April 19, 1949 on page 2.

[Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, advised on June 19, 1950, that ALICE CHILDRESS was one of the speakers at a rally which was held for the Hollywood Ten, sponsored by the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions in the Town Hall, New York City. (H) (u) Hollywood Ten.

[Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, reported that the so called "Hollywood 10" is a group of Motion Picture writers and directors who were subpoenaed before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1947 in connection with the Committee's investigation of infiltration into the Motion Picture industry. Each member of the group was held in contempt of Congress for refusal to testify before the Committee as to whether or not he had ever been a member of the Communist Party. This informant reported that he was personally acquainted with the "Hollywood 10" and knew all of them to have been members of the Communist Party in Hollywood". (S)(u)

[Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, advised that a "Call to a Conference on Equal Rights to Negroes in the Arts, Sciences and Professions," was held on November 10, 1951, at the Pythian, 135 West 70 Street, New York City. This informant stated that ALICE CHILDRESS was one of the sponsors and endorsers of the Conference Call. (S)(u)

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11. Committee For The Negro In The Arts

Confidential Informant [] and [] both of known reliability, advised that the Committee for the Negro in the Arts, was formed at the time of the re-organization and merger of the National Negro Congress and the Civil Rights Congress.

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It is to be noted that the National Negro Congress and the Civil Rights Congress are organizations which have been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

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With the merger of the above mentioned organizations, the Cultural Division of the National Negro Congress was discontinued, and in its place, the members of the Division organized the Committee for the Negro in the Arts.

Confidential Informants [] and [] advised that the Committee for the Negro in the Arts serves the interest of the Communist Party in New York City, in propagandizing alleged acts of racial discrimination in the employment of Negroes in the Arts field. The "Amsterdam News" of August 5, 1950, page 6, column 5, displayed a picture of the subject and described her as a Chairman of the Production Committee for theater productions.

The "Daily Worker" of January 17, 1951, page 11, column 1, reported that the dramatic musical, "Just A Little Simple," was nearing the end of its run in the Club Baron, 132 Street and Lenox Avenue. According to this article, this musical was put on by the Committee for the Negro in the Arts, which was trying to build a permanent theater in Harlem. It is indicated that the aforementioned musical was written by ALICE CHILDRESS.

Club Baron

The "Daily Worker", January 31, 1952, page 7, column 12, in an article captioned, "Evening in the Arts," described the entertainment which climaxed the first Constitutional Convention of the Committee for the Negro in the Arts, held at the Henry Lincoln Johnson Lodge, 15 West 126 Street, on January 26, and 27, 1952. This article stated that ALICE CHILDRESS presented "Conversations from Life," which was described as a glimpse into the life of a domestic worker.

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The "Daily Worker" of March 24, 1952, page 7, column 1, to 3, announced that the theater chapter of the Committee for the Negro in the Arts was presenting a new dramatic review, "Gold Through the Trees," by ALICE CHILDRESS, which concerns the ties between the African peoples and the American Negroes. This article stated that the review would be shown at the Club Baron, 132 Street and Lenox Avenue.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised of a meeting held by the Committee for the Negro in the Arts at the Town Hall on June 19, 1950. At this meeting, ALICE CHILDRESS read a poem entitled, "To The Convicts Wife."

The "Daily Worker", July 31, 1952, page 6, column 5, heralded a new play written by ALICE CHILDRESS to be premiered on August 9, 1952, at the Brighton Beach Community Center, 3200 Coney Island Avenue, at a meeting honoring the four women defendants in the New York Smith Act trial. Guests of honor at this meeting were ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, CLAUDIA JONES, Secretary of the Womens Commission, Communist Party, United States of America, and BETTY GANNETT. This article stated that the meeting was sponsored by the Citizens Emergency Defense Conference and the proceeds were to go toward the defense of the fifteen Smith Act victims. play for meetin

The "Daily Worker", March 23, 1951, page 4, column 3, stated that BETTY GANNETT is a National Communist Party Educational Director and presently on trial in New York City as a Smith Act violator.

Harlem Citizens Committee To Repeal The Smith Act

[redacted] of known reliability, advised on December 15, 1952 that the Harlem Citizen Committee to Repeal the Smith Act occupied desk space at 2286 7 Avenue, New York City, for about two months and then moved to an unknown address. [redacted] said this Committee is apparently not active in the Harlem Area at the present time. (u)

The "Daily Worker" of September 19, 1951, page 1, column 1, advised that a conference of the Harlem Citizens was held on September 17, 1951 at the Hotel Theresa, to open a campaign to repeal the Smith Act. ALICE CHILDRESS was among the initiating sponsors. The meeting was addressed by GEORGE W. CROCKETT JR., an Attorney of Detroit who helped defend the 11 Communist leaders and was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment by Federal Judge HAROLD MEDINA for contempt of court during the proceedings of the Smith Act trial.

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The "Daily Worker" of November 6, 1951, page 2, column 2, stated that ALICE CHILDRESS was a member of the Harlem Committee to repeal the Smith Act. This article stated that this committee urged Negro organizations to protest the recent refusal of the United States Supreme Court to review the case of BENJAMIN DAVIS.

"The Worker" issue of February 24, 1952, section 1, page 3, stated that BENJAMIN DAVIS, former Councilman, and "Victim of the Smith Act", was then serving a prison term in Terra Haute Federal Prison.

It is to be noted that "The Worker" is the Sunday edition of the "Daily Worker", an East Coast Communist Daily newspaper.

MISCELLANEOUS

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SE [REDACTED] on October 24, 1952, and reflect that the subject registered with the American Labor Party in 1951 from 434 West 163 Street. The subject gave her age at that time as thirty-four and stated that she lived twenty-eight years in the County and seven years in the Election District.

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," dated March 3, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., contains the following concerning the American Labor Party:

"American Labor Party

- "1. 'For years, the Communists have put forth the greatest efforts to capture the entire American Labor Party throughout New York State. They succeeded in capturing the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections of the American Labor Party but outside of New York City they have been unable to win control.' (Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, March 29, 1944, Page 78.)

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATION • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-379156)

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DATE: 3/20/56

APPROPRIATE PENCILS

AND FINGERPRINTS

ADVISED:

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L.R. FROM : SAC, New York [REDACTED] (S)(u)

SUBJECT: ALICE CHILDRESS, wa

SM - C

SECURITY INFORMANT PROGRAM

NEW YORK DIVISION

(S)(u)

DATE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

EXCEPT FOR INFORMATION

CONTAINED IN THIS SLIP

Background

Information was listed in the Theatrical Section, Index to Authors, New York City Public Library which reflected the age of the subject as thirty-five years and place of birth as Charleston, South Carolina.

The subject is married [REDACTED]

→ COMM. TO NYK R. MCKEE PAGEANT! → p. 23

ALICE CHILDRESS, negro, listed her place of birth as Charleston, South Carolina. ~~EXPEDITE PROCESSING~~

The Theatrical Section, Index to Authors, reflects that the subject attended Junior High School. This source indicated the subject was schooled in the theatre, and, since her Junior High School days, acted with amateur group such as, Urban League Players and The Negro Theatre Youth League.

The subject is an unemployed actress and playwright.

The subject occupied Apt. L, ground floor at 800 Riverside Drive, New York, New York on 8/1/52, and continues to reside there [REDACTED]

Communist Party Activity

On 9/21/51, [REDACTED] advised that the subject was a member of the Communist Party. (u) (S)

The subject was among those who led songs at a meeting held under the auspices of the Harlem Regional Committee of the Communist Party during March, 1950.

REGISTERED

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CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP-5 RJS/11/80

REASONS FOR EXTENSION

JFC:BA

COPIES DESTROYED FCIM, II, 1-4-7

070 APR 29 1963 DATE OF RE-ENTER

DECLASSIFICATION 3/20/90

DECLASSIFIED BY BOLUSEK/MLR/LC
ON 3/9/01
135-748

Letter to Director

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The subject wrote an article carried in Masses and Main-stream during February 1951 entitled, "For a Negro Theater."

The "Daily Worker", 8/7/51 issue quoted the subject as saying, in regard to Mother BLOOR's death, "The Negro people have lost a dear friend and champion. The world will cherish the good deeds she left behind."

The subject was one of the sponsors of the "Negro History Week Celebration" during 1951.

The subject attended the 2/12/52 Negro History Week Celebration and spoke on the subject entitled "The Negro Woman - Yes - Yesterday and Today." In this speech she urged that a fight be made for CIVIL Rights for all Americans.

The subject is and/or has been affiliated and participated since 1950, with at least eleven Communist fronts or Communist dominated groups among which are the following. Subject taught classes in the Dramatic Workshop at the Jefferson School of Social Science during 1951. Subject was a sponsor of a program in the preparation of a Peace Congress to be held in Chicago during June and July 1951. The subject has been associated with various Civil Rights Congress functions. Subject was a speaker at the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the Teachers Union during April 1951. The subject marched in the 1951 and 1952 May Day Parades. The subject has been associated with the National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions.

Plan of Approach

It is noted the subject resides at 800 Riverside Drive, New York City and is an unemployed actress. In view of the above the subject has no set routine, however it is planned that a discreet surveillance will be conducted. When the subject is observed to leave her residence, a direct approach will be made at a safe and secure distance from her residence.

In view of the above information Bureau authority is requested to interview the subject in keeping with current Bureau instructions relative to the Security Informant Program.

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Director, FBI (100-379156)
TO : SAC, New York (100-104258)
FROM : ALICE CHILDRESS, was.
SUBJECT: SM-C

DATE: 7/8/55

Re SAC letter #55-30, 4/12/55.

Succinct Resume of Case:

All informants utilized herein have furnished reliable information in the past, unless otherwise designated.

1. [redacted] on 9/21/51, advised that ALICE CHILDRESS was a member of the CP as of that date. (S)(u)

2. The "Daily Worker" edition of 3/19/50, reported that ALICE CHILDRESS was among those who led songs at a meeting held under the auspices of the Harlem Regional Committee of the CP ("DW" cited by HCUA).

3. [redacted] in May 1951 advised that ALICE CHILDRESS was a sponsor of the Provisional and Cultural Committee for May Day 1951. (S)(u)

[redacted] described the Provisional and Cultural Committee for May Day as being a CP organization and the Committee is made up entirely of CP members. (S)(u)

4. The spring catalog of the JSSS for 1951, on page 26, stated that ALICE CHILDRESS would teach the Dramatic Workshop on Tuesday evenings. (JSSS cited by Attorney General) (Dramatic Workshop cited by HCUA)

5. The "Daily Worker" of 5/20/54, page 6, column 1, disclosed that ALICE CHILDRESS was Dramatic Director at Camp Unity.

[redacted] advised on 5/27/53 that Camp Unity has been controlled by the CP since its inception in 1929 or 1930. (S)(u)

6. [redacted] on 7/1/54 advised that ALICE CHILDRESS was Cultural Director at Camp Unity during 1954. (S)(u)

RM ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED
OR OTHERWISE INDICATED

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FOR ONE PERIOD OF EXTENSION
FCIM, N.Y.
DATE 4/10/90
DECLASSIFICATION DATE

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[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available on May 14, 1953, a card received from 35 East 12th Street, New York City, which was the building occupied by Publishers New Press, Incorporated, ("The Worker" and "Daily Worker") and other organizations all of which were under the control of the CP. The card was dated March 6, 1952, and indicated that ALICE CHILDRESS, 434 West 163rd Street, New York 32 (4) New York, was a subscriber to the "Daily Worker" and/or "The Worker" until March 12, 1953.

The "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist newspaper. "The Worker" is the Sunday edition of the "Daily Worker."

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C. Evidence of Membership In
Or Sympathy with Communist
Party Front Organizations

American Peace Crusade (APC)

[redacted] On February 9, 1954, [redacted] (4) who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that ALICE CHILDRESS, Actress, New York City, had endorsed the American Peace Crusade "Appeal to the People of the United States."

The APC has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Council on African Affairs

[redacted] (4) who has furnished reliable information in the past, on April 21, 1953, advised ALICE CHILDRESS had organized a group of actors and actresses into the

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progressive movement. This group was to present a play on April 23, 1953, and the funds derived therefrom were to be turned over to the Council on African Affairs for the benefit of the South African Resistance Movement.

The Council on African Affairs has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

b2

Civil Rights Congress (CRC)

b7D [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on June 4, 1953, that he had observed the name Mrs. ALICE CHILDRESS, 434 West 163rd Street, New York City, LO 8-6740 on a document entitled "Finance Committee" which was maintained in the building occupied by the CRC, 6 East 17th Street, New York City. (S)J

The CRC has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The "Daily Worker" of November 30, 1951, page 7, column 1, under an article captioned "Art Exhibit, Sale Next Weekend" revealed ALICE CHILDRESS was Co-Chairman of the Artists Committee of the CRC.

Committee for the Negro in the Arts

The "Daily Worker" of May 30, 1951, page 1, columns 2-4, reflects the Committee for the Negro in the Arts charged Sunday, at its "brunch" honoring Negroes and whites for promoting Negro culture, that Negro theatrical personalities are being left out of the 200th Anniversary celebration of the United States

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Theater. The charges were made in a presentation address delivered by Mrs. ALICE CHILDRESS.

The Committee for the Negro in the Arts has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available information which reflected (date not determined) that ALICE CHILDRESS had endorsed a check dated April 7, 1952, made payable to Committee for the Negro in the Arts and drawn on the account of [redacted]

~~LOUIS A. BUDENZ~~
Mr. LOUIS E. BUDENZ, former CP functionary until October, 1945 and former managing editor of the "Daily Worker", advised on June 21, 1950, that [redacted] was a loyal member of the CP during the period from approximately 1942 to 1945. N.Y. He advised that he had been instructed several times by EUGENE DENNIS and JACK STACHEL, CP functionaries, regarding the fact that [redacted] was a loyal member of the CP in order that BUDENZ could identify [redacted] in connection with BUDENZ's work on the "Daily Worker." N.Y.

[redacted] Information by [redacted] above, [redacted] and [redacted] subsequently mentioned in this report is not to be made public except in a usual proceeding following the issuance of a subpoena. (SAC)

[redacted] advised on November 5, 1944, that ALICE CHILDRESS had been the motivating force behind the Committee for the Negro in the Arts. (SAC)

[redacted] On May 28, 1952, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, revealed that ALICE CHILDRESS had endorsed a check made payable to the Committee for the Negro in the Arts which was dated April 24, 1952. (SAC)

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California Senate Fact Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, page 394).

The masthead of the "National Guardian" issue of May 9, 1955, reflected it is published weekly by the Weekly Guardian Associates, Incorporated, 17 Murray Street, New York 7, New York.

The "Daily Worker" of November 1, 1951, page 7, column two, in an article entitled "50 Notables Back Parley on Negro Rights on Arts, Sciences" revealed ALICE CHILDRESS was one of the sponsors of a conference initiated by the New York Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions held on November 10th at the Pythian, 35 West 79th Street.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on July 15, 1953, that he had attended a general membership meeting of the National Council of the ASP, Incorporated, on June 17, 1953. At this meeting, according to the informant, ALICE CHILDRESS and others became involved in discussion on blacklists, etc, and that 75 per cent of the audience left.

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Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs

[redacted] On December 31, 1954, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available a booklet entitled "Bread and Roses Too!" in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the Jewish Settlement in the United States of America, 1654-1954, Emma Lazarus Clubs - Brooklyn, New York, Serviced by Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs, 1605th Avenue, New York 10, New York." The above mentioned booklet on page 5, contained an announcement of a program, concert and dramatic presentation staged by ALICE CHILDRESS, to be held on December 11, 1954.

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[redacted] former National Functionary of the CP, USA, advised on January 6, 1954, that he has known the TU of New York City to have been under the control of the CP since the middle 1930's. He knows [redacted] and [redacted] as having been devoted CP members as of the time he left the CP in [redacted]

The "New York Teachers News," official newspaper of the TU, issue of May 5, 1956, reflects that ABRAHAM LEDERMAN and ROSE V. RUSSELL continue to be officers of the TU as of the date of publication.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available on April 30, 1951, a press release sent by the TU, 206 West 15th Street, New York, New York, Local 555, UPW during the month of April. The press release dated April 7, 1951, indicated Mrs. ALICE CHILDRESS was one of the persons making declarations at the "Teachers Union 15th Annual Educational Conference at the Hotel Commodore."

Committee of the Sojourn for Truth and Justice

A pamphlet entitled "A Call to Negro Women" announcing a Sojourn for Truth and Justice in Washington, D.C. from September 29 through October 1, 1951, made available by [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, on October 18, 1951, and who had obtained the pamphlet at a meeting of the Financial Committee of the CRC on September 27, 1951, revealed that ALICE CHILDRESS, New York, was one of the members of the Initiating Committee of the Sojourn for Truth and Justice to Washington.

[redacted] advised on May 29, 1952, that the

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Playwrights has not been active since the closing of its production "The Big Deal" in May, 1953, and had no plans for any future productions at that time.

[] On December 26, 1950, [] made available a program of New Playwrights, Incorporated, presentation of "The Hammer", premier September 8, 1950, Czechoslovak Workers House, which revealed ALICE CHILDRESS was a member of the Board of Directors of New Playwrights, Incorporated. (c)(1)

[] on March 10, 1951, furnished information concerning the background and activities of New Playwrights, Incorporated. This information revealed the Board of Directors of New Playwrights, Incorporated, included ALICE CHILDRESS, as of March 10, 1951. (f)(4)(v)

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"The Worker" (Section II) of August 6, 1950, page 6, column 1, revealed that New Playwrights is the "best news the left wing theater audiences and artists have heard in the last few years" and according to the article ALICE CHILDRESS was a member of the Board of Directors of New Playwrights, Incorporated.

[] on June 27, 1951, furnished a carbon copy of a typewritten memorandum bearing the return address of New Playwrights, Incorporated, 347 East 72nd Street, dated August 7, 1950, which reflected ALICE CHILDRESS, Negro actress and playwright, was a member of the Cultural Board of New Playwrights, Incorporated. (c)(1)(v)

Provisional Harlem Committee To Repeal the Smith Act

[] made available on June 12, 1952, a letter under the letterhead of the Provisional Harlem Committee to Repeal the Smith Act, 261 West 125th Street, room 308, (f)(1)(v)

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New York, New York, dated September 6, 1951, bearing the
signature of ALICE CHILDRESS among others. (d)(v)

The letter appeared to be an invitation
"to an initial meeting on Monday September 17, 1951, at
8:00 P.M. at the Hotel Theresa, 125th Street and 7th Avenue,
toplan a campaign looking toward the reversal (g)(v)
of the Smith Act....."

[redacted] advised on September 4, 1953, that the
Provisional Harlem Committee to Repeal the Smith Act,
also known as Harlem Committee to Repeal the Smith
Act, was brought into existence about September, 1951, fostered
by the CP with the avowed purpose of repealing the Smith
Act. [redacted] further advised there has been no activity
on the part of this organization to his knowledge, since
approximately January, 1953.

JEWISH YOUNG FRATERNALIST AND "JEWISH YOUTH
BUILDER"

[redacted], who has furnished reliable information
in the past, on February 27, 1951, exhibited a news release
issued by the "Jewish Youth Builder" on February 24, 1951,
which announced the cultural presentation to be given on
that date under joint sponsorship of the Jewish Young
Fraternalist (JYF) and the "Jewish Youth Builder", identified
as the "progressive Jewish monthly publication." The news
release stated that ALICE CHILDRESS was one of the sponsors
of the affair.

The "Morning Freiheit" of December 28,
1947, reflected that the Youth Division of the JFPO
was then holding its First Constitutional Convention
in New York City.

The December 29, 1947, issue of the "Morning
Freiheit" reported a ceremony admitting the Youth
Division as an official section of the JFPO.

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(C) [] advised on December 9, 1955, and on April 26, 1955, that the Committee to Restore Paul Robeson's Passport, although it continued to maintain desk space at Suite 6, 139 West 125th Street, New York City, and was listed as a tenant at Suite 6, 139 West 125th Street, New York City, had not been active for the past year and at present it was in a dormant status.

(C) [] On June 1, 1954, [] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised ALICE CHILDRESS was one of the entertainers at an affair given by the Committee to Restore Paul Robeson's Passport at the Renaissance Ballroom, 137th Street and Seventh Avenue, New York City, on May 26, 1954.

D. Associates

The "Daily Worker" of October 31, 1952, page 1, column 4, in an article entitled "Harlem Reception Pays Tribute to Mrs. Bass" revealed ALICE CHILDRESS was one of several speaking in tribute to the gallant fight being waged by the first Negro woman to be nominated the Progressive Party candidate for vice-president, Mrs. CHARLOTTE BASS.

[] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on July 20, 1950, that [] was often mentioned to him as a Communist prior to 1945 and he believed she attended one of the National Conventions of the CP as a delegate in approximately 1942.

The National Committee, CP, USA, in issuing its final text of the "Resolution Growing Out of the Presidential Elections" in "Political Affairs" issue of July, 1953, states in substance that in 1948 the CP helped stimulate the formation of the Progressive Party and correctly supported the Progressive Party through the 1952 elections. It then states:

"However, the mistake which the Party made was to confuse this task with the historic task of forming a new mass Party of the people. As a consequence there existed the wrong estimate that the formation of the

Communist
to
Restore
in
Mass
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the following:

".....Another TV show deserving of analysis
is 'Danger', sponsored over CBS - TV by.....
On 'Danger' have appeared Communist - fronters.....
Alice Childress.....as well as many performers
not such."

[] on March 23, 1956, advised that ALICE
CHILDRESS, formerly active with the Negro in the Arts
had published a new book "Like One Of The Family:
Conversations From A Domestic's Life" which was being
widely circulated among CP members throughout the state
and country.

D

[] b1

[] (c)

b1

The "Daily Worker" of August 5, 1955, page
2, column 4, in an article entitled "Hiroshima Memorial
to hear ARTHUR UPHAM POPE" revealed a dramatic presentation
"The Search" written and directed by ALICE CHILDRESS will
be featured at the 10th Anniversary Hiroshima Commemorative
meeting held at Carnegie Hall next Wednesday evening.

[] On September 26, 1955, it was ascertained
through information made available by [] who has
furnished reliable information in the past, that the (u)

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officers of the Hiroshima Commemorative Committee
were as follows:

GUY EMERY SHIPLER, Chairman

JANICE ROBERTS, Secretary

HENRY KRAMS, Treasurer

LOUIS BUDENZ advised on June 26, 1950, that he
had been officially advised by JACK STACHEL, CP functionary,
that the [redacted] was a member of the CP
and under communist discipline.

The "Daily Worker" of November 25, 1953, listed
JANICE M. ROBERTS as a signer of a petition supporting
the JSSS.

[On June 14, 1954, [redacted] (u)
who has furnished
reliable information in the past, advised that [redacted]
[redacted] was known to her as a member of the CP in the
late 1930's and the early 1940's.

The "National Guardian" of August 22, 1955, page
4, column 4, reflected that the program in Carnegie
Hall under the auspices of the Hiroshima Commemorative
Committee included a drama production written and
directed by ALICE CHILDRASS.

[On January 5, 1956, [redacted] (u)
who has furnished
reliable information in the past, made available a letter
dated December 30, 1955, under the letterhead of the
"Provisional Committee for Justice in Mississippi", 220
West 80th Street, New York 24, New York, asking the
receiver to join in the sponsorship of a meeting to
be held in January which indicated ALICE CHILDRASS
was one of those invited to sponsor the meeting.

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[REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on 6/1/56.
[REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on 6/1/56.
[REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on 6/1/56.
[REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on 6/1/56. (u)
[REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on 6/5/56. (R)
[REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on 6/5/56.
[REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on 6/12/56.
[REDACTED] contacted by SA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on 6/14/56. (u)

b1

ADMINISTRATIVE

On 2/17/53, former [REDACTED] of unknown reliability advised he had attended a meeting of the Harlem Committee of the CP held on 2/17/53, at the home of [REDACTED]. Those present included [REDACTED] PAUL ROBESON and ALICE CHILDRESS whom he had brought to the meeting from 158th Street and Riverside Drive, New York City. (u) → Robin
from [REDACTED] (R) → Robin
from [REDACTED] (R) → Robin

[REDACTED] has furnished both questionable

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE CONT'D

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writer and conducts her business from her residence.

II. AFFILIATION WITH THE
COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

A. Miscellaneous Activities

[On November 4, 1955,] (C)(u) made available an undated form captioned ASP Speakers Bureau which was found in the office recently vacated by the National Council of Arts, Sciences and Professions (NCASP) and the New York Chapter of the Council.

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The above form reflected that ALICE CHILDRESS, 800 Riverside Drive, was available for subjects pertaining to History of the Negro Artists in America, Negro Women in America, Outstanding Figures in Negro History, and Cultural Backgrounds, America, West Indies and Africa. The usual fee was \$50 more or less based on the size of the audience.

[On September 19, 1956,] (C)(u) advised the name ALICE C. with the notation "n" appeared on a document captioned "Culture and sub-captioned "Un-Reg" maintained in the possession of [] on that date. (C)(u)

[] advised on June 22, 1956, that the Harlem Regional Communist Party (CP) membership at that time included []. The informant on April 4, 1956, reaffirmed this statement.

[On April 9, 1957,] (C)(u) advised ALICE CHILDRESS was present at a birthday party for PAUL ROBESON, SR.

Person
Person
Person
Person